

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A monitoring device disposed for thwarting denial of service attacks on a data center, the monitoring device comprising:

a device, coupled to physical links between the data center and a network, with the device disposed to examine traffic entering or leaving that data center on the coupled physical links and collect statistical information on packets that are sent between the network and the data center over the coupled physical links for a plurality of customers by examining traffic as if the device was disposed on links that are downstream from the coupled links that the provisioned monitor is coupled to.

2. (Original) The monitoring device of claim 1 wherein the monitoring device is coupled to a control center through a dedicated, private network.

3. (Currently Amended) The monitoring device of claim 2 wherein the device further comprises:

a communication process that communicates the statistical information on packets ~~statistics~~ with the control center, and which receives queries or instructions from the control center.

4. (Original) The monitoring device of claim 1 wherein the monitoring device is a gateway device and further comprises:

a process to install filters to thwart denial of service attacks by removing network traffic that is deemed part of an attack.

5. (Original) The monitoring device of claim 1 wherein the monitoring device is a data collector device.

6. (Original) The monitoring device of claim 4 wherein the gateway comprises:
a process to aggregate traffic from the various links and to produce logs and detection heuristics.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of thwarting denial of service attacks on a victim data center coupled to a network comprises:

collecting, using a provisioned monitor statistical information on packets that are sent between a network and a plurality of customers of the data center by examining traffic on selected links in the data center as if the collecting were being performed on links that are downstream from the selected links that the provisioned monitor is disposed on; and
communicating data, over a dedicated network, to a control center.

8. (Original) The monitoring device of claim 7 wherein the device is a gateway device, which further comprises:

installing filters to thwart denial of service attacks by removing network traffic that is deemed part of an attack.

9. (Original) The monitoring device of claim 7 wherein the monitoring device is a data collector device.

10. (Original) The monitoring device of claim 7 wherein collecting occurs for inbound and/or outbound traffic.

11. (Currently Amended) An arrangement disposed to monitor a link between a data center and a network for thwarting denial of service attacks on the data center, the arrangement comprising:

a provisioned monitor, placed on selected links in the data center so that the provisioned monitor examines traffic entering or leaving that data center on the selected links and ~~that~~ collects statistical information for a plurality of provisioned customers, which are on links that are downstream from the selected links that the provisioned monitor is disposed on, the provisioned monitor maintaining separate counter logs for each provisioned customer; and a global counter log that accounts for all traffic seen on the link that the provisioned monitor is coupled to.

12. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 11 wherein the provisioned monitor is a gateway that maintains separate packet logs for each monitor.

13. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 12 wherein the gateway maintains a global packet log for all traffic.

14. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 13 wherein the global packet log includes a sample of all traffic seen on the link to which the gateway is connected.

15. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 14 wherein packet analysis for a particular monitor happens by classifying packets based on addresses at the time of the analysis.

16. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 13 wherein the gateway maintains duplicate packets, keeping both a global packet log and a packet log for each virtual monitor.

17. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 12 wherein the gateway is a clustered gateway and includes a plurality of probes and a cluster head, with the cluster head having a process to aggregate traffic from the probes and to produce separate counter logs for each provisioned customer; and a global counter log, and produce detection heuristics.

18. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 11 wherein the provisioned monitor including a virtual monitor for the physical link on which the provisioned monitor is deployed is configured to be an independent node in the network capable of issuing attack warnings and responses to attack queries independently from other virtual monitors of the provisioned monitor.

19. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 18 wherein the provisioned monitor including all of the provisioned monitor's virtual monitors act as one node in the distributed network.

20. (Original) The arrangement of claim 19 wherein the provisioned monitor acts as an intermediary between virtual monitors and the rest of the network and includes a process to maintain communications with the control center and to reply to attack queries.

21. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 18 wherein the provisioned monitor's virtual monitors have filters installed on a per virtual monitor basis.

22. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 18 wherein when a virtual monitor detects an attack on a provisioned customer, information is conveyed both to the control center and to a hosting provider's management interface.

23. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 22 wherein the control center is adapted to distinguish an attack on a single provisioned customer associated with a virtual monitor and an attack on the link(s) on which the monitor is physically deployed.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of thwarting attacks on a victim data center coupled to a network comprises:

collecting statistical information for a plurality of provisioned customers on links that are downstream from links on which collecting occurs; and

maintaining separate counter logs for each provisioned customer; and a global counter log that accounts for all traffic seen on the links on which collecting occurs.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein collecting occurs on a gateway that passes network packets, the gateway being disposed at an edge of the network.

26 ~~27~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein collecting occurs on a data collector that samples network packets, the data collector being disposed at a location that is at a large aggregation link in the network for the data center.

27 ~~28~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising:
performing, by the provisioned gateway, intelligent traffic analysis and filtering to identify the malicious traffic and to eliminate the malicious traffic.

28 ~~29~~. (Currently Amended) A method of thwarting attacks on a victim data center coupled to a network comprises:

collecting statistical information for a plurality of links that are downstream from links on which collecting occurs;

performing traffic analysis on the collected statistical information on a per downstream link basis to identify malicious traffic; and

communicating alerts that arise from the traffic analysis.

29 ~~30~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein performing analysis occurs on statistical information collected for an individual one of the downstream links to identify malicious traffic intended for the individual one of the downstream links.

30 ~~31~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein communicating to a control center occurs on a downstream link basis.

31 ~~32~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein communicating occurs on a downstream link basis to a control center that determines a response to the attack.

32 ~~33~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein communicating occurs on a downstream link basis over a dedicated, hardened network to a control center that determines a response to the attack.

33 ~~34~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 further comprising:
filtering the identified malicious traffic and to eliminate the malicious traffic from reaching the one of the downstream links.